CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD

Chandra Shekhar was only a little boy when he ran away to Bombay in search of adventure. Little did he know how much he would get involved in the country's freedom struggle. Those were the days when the non-cooperation movement had gathered immense momentum and it was in Varanasi that Chandra Shekhar first confronted British authority. After that there was no looking back. Assuming the surname 'Azad' he and his band of revolutionaries did much to awaken in the Indian people the desire for freedom. Martyred at the age of 25, Chandra Shekhar Azad has left an indelible mark on the history of Indian Independence.

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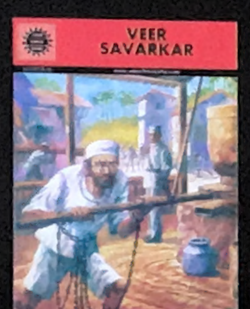

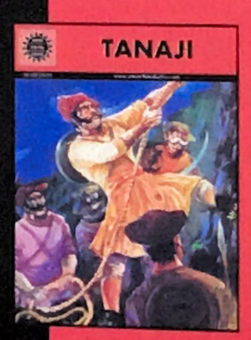

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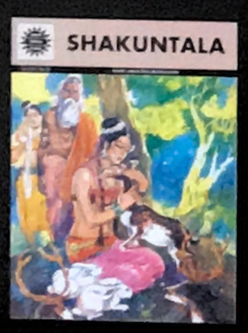

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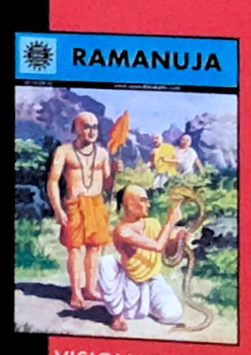

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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD

FREEDOM WAS HIS MISSION

Vol 686 | ₹50

CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD

CHANDRA SHEKHAR WAS BORN IN 1906, IN BHANWRA, A VILLAGE IN ALIRAJPUR STATE, CENTRAL PROVINCES*. HE WAS A ROBUST, INTELLIGENT LAD.

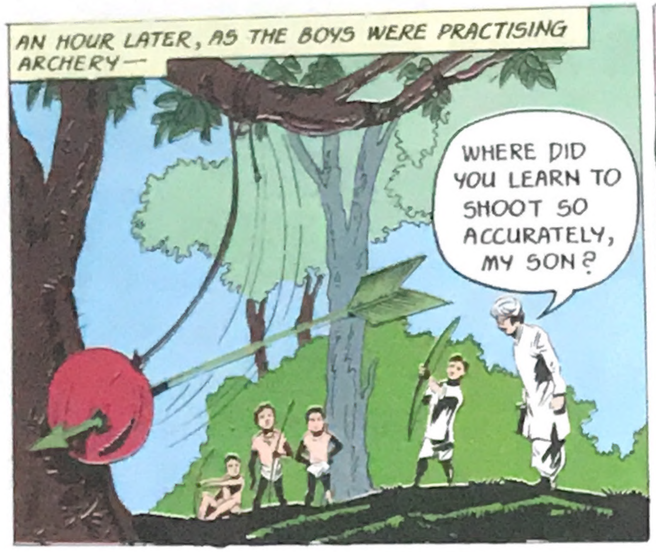
WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE TO SCHOOL? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

EXPERIMENTING, MOTHER. A SINGLE MATCH GIVES A GOOD DEAL OF LIGHT. I WANTED TO SEE HOW MUCH LIGHT A BOXFUL OF MATCHES COULD GIVE.

HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU THAT FIRE IS DANGEROUS?

BUT IT IS ALSO USEFUL, MOTHER. IT CHASES AWAY DARKNESS.

* NOW MADHYA PRADESH.

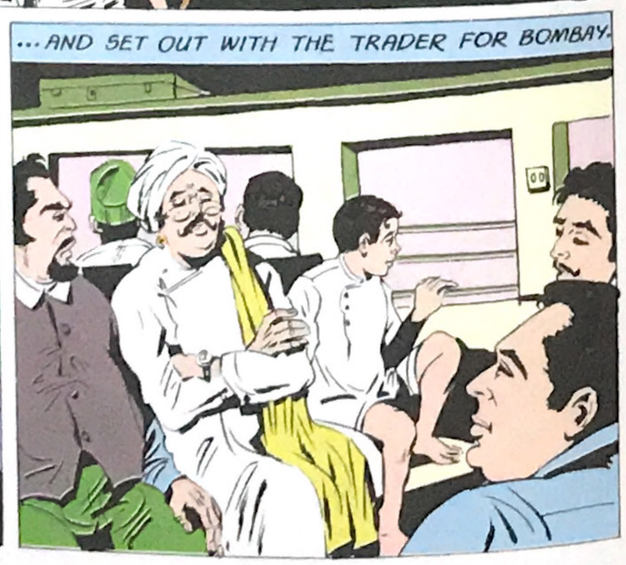

AN HOUR LATER, AS THE BOYS WERE PRACTISING ARCHERY—
WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO SHOOT SO ACCURATELY, MY SON?

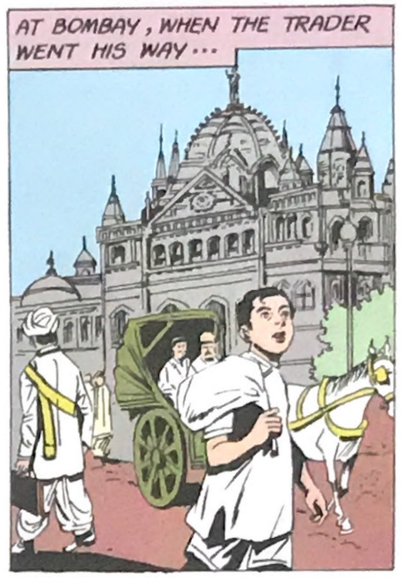
FROM MY BHIL FRIENDS. WHO ARE YOU?

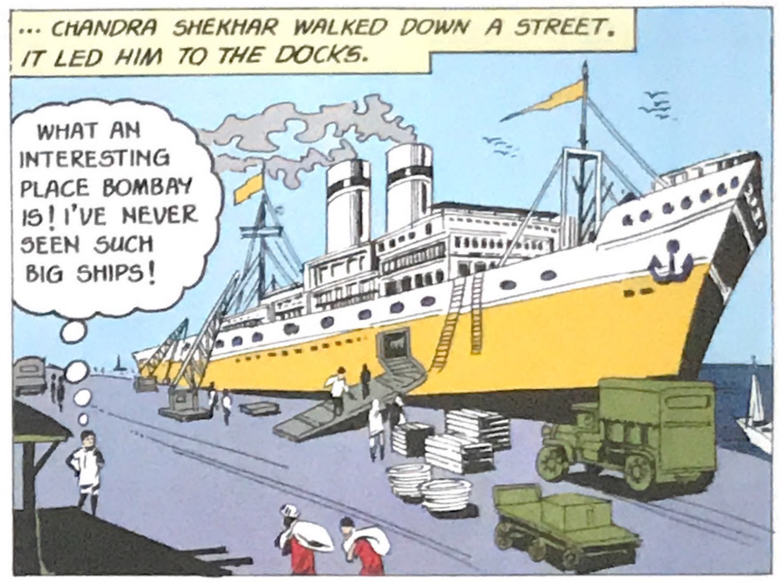
I TRADE IN PEARLS. I HAVE COME FROM FAR OFF BOMBAY. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO BOMBAY?

NO, I HAVEN'T. BUT I'D LOVE TO GO. WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU WHEN YOU RETURN?
I'LL TAKE YOU TO BOMBAY, IF YOU LIKE. BUT AFTER THAT YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN.

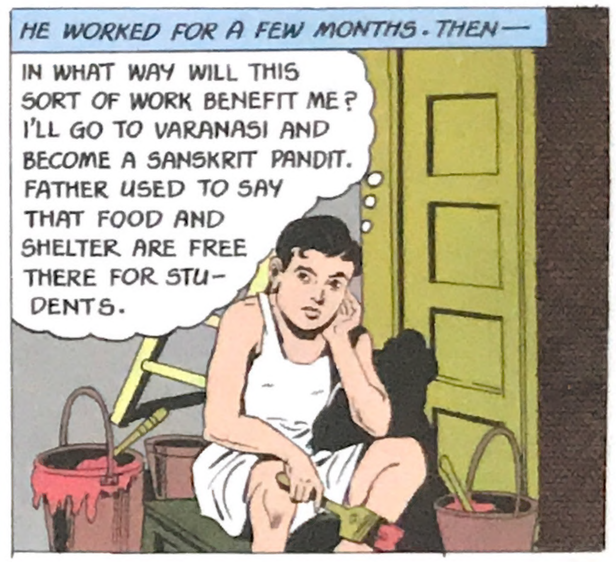
ONE NIGHT, A FEW DAYS LATER, CHANDRA SHEKHAR QUIETLY SLIPPED OUT OF HIS HOME...

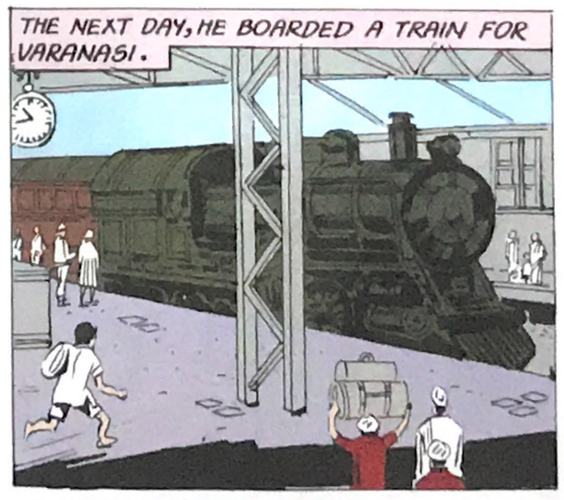

...AND SET OUT WITH THE TRADER FOR BOMBAY.

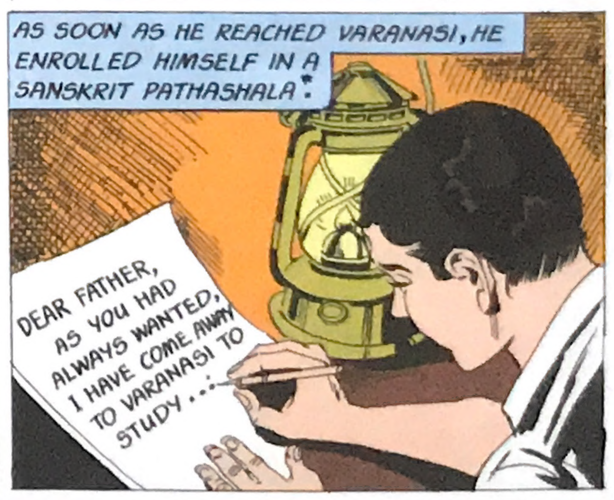

AT BOMBAY, WHEN THE TRADER WENT HIS WAY...


...CHANDRA SHEKHAR WALKED DOWN A STREET. IT LED HIM TO THE DOCKS.
WHAT AN INTERESTING PLACE BOMBAY IS! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH BIG SHIPS!

AS HE STOOD WONDERING WHAT HE SHOULD DO, HE SAW A PAINTER COMING TOWARDS HIM.
EXCUSE ME. CAN YOU GIVE ME A JOB?
WHY NOT! COME WITH ME.


HE WORKED FOR A FEW MONTHS. THEN—
IN WHAT WAY WILL THIS SORT OF WORK BENEFIT ME? I'LL GO TO VARANASI AND BECOME A SANSKRIT PANDIT. FATHER USED TO SAY THAT FOOD AND SHELTER ARE FREE THERE FOR STUDENTS.


THE NEXT DAY, HE BOARDED A TRAIN FOR VARANASI.


AS SOON AS HE REACHED VARANASI, HE ENROLLED HIMSELF IN A SANSKRIT PATHASHALA*.
DEAR FATHER, AS YOU HAD ALWAYS WANTED, I HAVE COME AWAY TO VARANASI TO STUDY...

* SCHOOL

IT WAS THE YEAR 1921. PEOPLE HAD RISEN IN REVOLT AGAINST THE BRITISH RULE. THE NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT WAS IN FULL SWING. THERE WERE ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROCESSIONS IN VARANASI ALMOST EVERY DAY.

INQUILAB ZINDABAD!

इन्कलाब जिंदाबाद

भारत माता की जय

BHARAT MATA KI JAI!

FIRED BY THEIR PATRIOTIC ZEAL, CHANDRA SHEKHAR ONE DAY JOINED A PROCESSION OF YOUNG REVOLUTIONARIES.

INQUILAB! ZINDABAD!

ARREST THE LOT. INSOLENT BRATS!

CHANDRA SHEKHAR WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO BE ARRESTED.

HE WAS PRODUCED BEFORE A MAGISTRATE.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

AZAD.

WHAT IS YOUR FATHER'S NAME? WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

FREEDOM IS MY FATHER'S NAME AND JAIL, MY HOME.

IMPUDENT BRAT! BUT YOU ARE STILL A CHILD. SO I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH A GOOD CANING. TAKE HIM AWAY.

THE POLICE DRAGGED HIM TO THE JAIL...

...TIED HIM UP...

...AND BEGAN CANING HIM. AZAD DID NOT SQUIRM EVEN ONCE. INSTEAD, AFTER EACH STROKE—

INQUILAB ZINDABAD! BHARAT MATA KI JAI!

WHEN NEWS OF THIS REACHED THE REVOLUTIONARIES, CHANDRA SHEKHAR WAS GIVEN A PUBLIC RECEPTION.

CHANDRA SHEKHAR ZINDABAD!

FRIENDS! I DEDICATE MY LIFE TO THE SERVICE OF MY COUNTRY. THE POLICE WILL NEVER AGAIN TAKE ME ALIVE! I WILL ALWAYS REMAIN FREE. I AM AZAD.

AFTER THAT SPEECH, THE NAME AZAD STUCK TO HIM.

CHANDRA SHEKHAR 'AZAD,' ZINDABAD!

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT ONE OF THEIR SECRET MEETINGS —

COMRADES, AN URGENT NOTICE HAS TO BE STUCK ON THE WALLS OF THE KOTWALI*. WHO WILL VOLUNTEER TO DO IT?

THE KOTWALI IS HEAVILY GUARDED!

IT IS TOO RISKY A JOB.

I DON'T DARE VOLUNTEER.

WHEN NO ONE CAME FORWARD —

I'LL DO IT. I WILL GO RIGHT AWAY.

IT WAS AZAD.

* POLICE STATION

HE SMEARED A THICK LAYER OF GUM ON THE BACK OF THE NOTICE...

...AND A LITTLE ON ITS FACE.

THEN STICKING THE FACE OF THE NOTICE ON HIS BACK...

...HE WENT AND LEANED AGAINST A PILLAR OF THE KOTWALI.

POLICE STATION

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

LOOKING AT THE KOTWALI, SIR. I'VE JUST COME FROM MY VILLAGE TO SEE THIS CITY.

AS THE UNSUSPECTING POLICEMAN WALKED AWAY —

I'VE DONE IT!

A LITTLE LATER, THE CHIEF CAME OUT OF THE KOTWALI.

HOW DID THIS NOTICE GET HERE?

SIR, I WAS HERE ON DUTY ALL THE TIME. I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW IT COULD HAVE GOT THERE!

SUCH WAS THE DARING OF YOUNG AZAD.

TWO YEARS LATER, IN 1923, THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION, A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, ESTABLISHED A CENTRE AT VARANASI. RAMPRASAD BISMIL, ROSHAN SINGH, ASHFAQULLAH, RAJENDRA LAHIRI AND AZAD BECAME ITS STAUNCH SUPPORTERS. AT ONE OF THE PARTY MEETINGS IN 1925, AZAD CAME FORWARD WITH A QUERY.

BISMILJI, WE NEED FUNDS FOR OUR WORK. HOW ARE WE TO RAISE IT?

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY—LET'S ROB THE RICH.

ROBBING THE RICH WILL ONLY MAKE US UNPOPULAR. LET US LOOT THE GOVERNMENT. THEN ALONE WILL THE PEOPLE SUPPORT OUR MOVEMENT.

WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, BISMILJI.

BUT HOW DO WE GO ABOUT IT?

BISMIL WAS READY WITH HIS PLANS FOR THE FIRST RAID.

ON THE NINTH OF AUGUST WE SEPARATELY BOARD THE B-DOWN LUCKNOW PASSENGER AT KAKORI. THEN...

EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN.

WHEN THE B-DOWN LUCKNOW PASSENGER HAD TRAVELLED SOME DISTANCE FROM KAKORI—

OH, NO! I'VE LEFT MY TRUNK BEHIND AT KAKORI. HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN IT? WHAT SHALL I DO?

WHAT A CALAMITY!

ASHFAQULLAH TOOK THE CUE.

DON'T PANIC, SIR. I'LL PULL THE CHAIN AND STOP THE TRAIN.

DON'T ANY OF YOU DARE MAKE A SOUND. NO ONE WILL BE HARMED. WE ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN THE STATE TREASURY'S SAFE THAT IS ON THIS TRAIN.

MEANWHILE INSIDE THE TRAIN—

ONE STEP AND I'LL SHOOT!

HURRY! LOWER THE SAFE.

LATER—

THE GUARD AND THE DRIVER HAVE BEEN OVERPOWERED. LET'S BREAK THE SAFE, TAKE THE CASH AND GET AWAY.

AS ASHFAQULLAH BEGAN BREAKING OPEN THE SAFE—

BISMILJI, LOOK! A TRAIN!

DON'T PANIC. IT'S ONLY THE PUNJAB MAIL. LOWER YOUR ARMS AND STAND STILL.

AS THE TRAIN WHIZZED PAST, ALL OF THEM STOOD STILL.

A SECOND LATER—

QUICK! WRAP THE CASH IN SMALL BUNDLES.

BISMIL, AZAD AND THEIR FRIENDS THEN MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE NARROW, WINDING JUNGLE PATHS TO LUCKNOW.

THE NEXT DAY, AT LUCKNOW—

KAKORI CONSPIRACY! KAKORI CONSPIRACY!

BRITISH GOVERNMENT CHALLENGED
REVOLUTIONARIES GO INTO ACTION.

LATER, WHEN EFFORTS TO TRACE THE CULPRITS WERE INTENSIFIED—

IT'S TIME FOR US TO DISPERSE, COMRADES.

ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF LATER, EXCEPT FOR AZAD AND ONE OTHER, THE 'CONSPIRATORS' WERE ROUNDED UP AND SENTENCED TO DEATH.

IT'S HIGHLY UNJUST—A DEATH SENTENCE FOR SUCH A SMALL OFFENCE!

THE BRITISH ARE MAKING A MOCKERY OF LAW AND JUSTICE. MAY THEY BE DESTROYED.

AZAD MEANWHILE HAD REACHED A HANUMAN TEMPLE AT DHIMARPUR, A SMALL VILLAGE NEAR JHANSI. ONE DAY, A PASSING VILLAGER WAS SURPRISED TO SEE A STRANGER IN THE TEMPLE.

BRAHMACHARIJI, WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM?

I AM A WANDERING DEVOTEE OF LORD HANUMAN. I PLAN TO LIVE IN HIS TEMPLE FOR A FEW DAYS.

ONE DAY—

HEY! AREN'T YOU AZAD?

OF COURSE I AM. A DEVOTEE OF HANUMAN CAN NEVER BE ANY-THING ELSE. I MUST BE OFF.

YOU'LL HAVE TO COME TO THE POLICE STATION FIRST. THE CHIEF WANTS TO SEE YOU.

WHICH CHIEF? I HAVE ONLY ONE CHIEF— HANUMAN. GET AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE I CURSE YOU.

FRIGHTENED OUT OF HIS WITS BY AZAD'S FURY, THE POLICE-MAN RAN AWAY.

THE CHIEF MUST BE MISTAKEN. HE IS A GENUINE YOGI.

WHAT A NARROW ESCAPE.

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE THAKUR OF THE VILLAGE CAME TO HIM.

BRAHMACHARIJI, WHY DON'T YOU STAY WITH ME AND TEACH AT THE VILLAGE SCHOOL. IT WILL BE CONVENIENT FOR YOU AND GOOD FOR THE CHILDREN.

AZAD ACCEPTED THE OFFER AND BEGAN TEACHING AT THE VILLAGE SCHOOL.

THE POLICE HAVE RELAXED THEIR PERSECUTION. IT'S TIME TO REORGAN-ISE THE PARTY. ONE OF THESE DAYS I MUST GO TO JHANSI.

MEANWHILE, CONTACTS WERE MADE AND AZAD'S COMRADES FROM JHANSI BEGAN JOINING HIM AT DHIMARPUR. HE BEGAN TRAINING THEM IN THE USE OF ARMS, IN THE DENSE JUNGLES OF ORCHHA.

ONE DAY, HE LEFT DHIMARPUR AND WENT TO LIVE AT JHANSI. THERE —

SIR, MY NAME IS HARI SHANKAR. I AM IN NEED OF A JOB.

BUNDELKHAND MOTOR CO.

WE HAVE VACANCIES ONLY FOR MECHANICS. YOU WILL HAVE TO LEARN THE JOB. TILL YOU DO, YOU WILL BE PAID ONLY A STIPEND.

A FEW MONTHS LATER—

YOU HAVE LEARNT BOTH DRIVING AND MOTOR-MECHANICS VERY FAST. YOU ARE NOW FIT TO DRIVE ONE OF OUR TAXIS.

FOR MONTHS HE WORKED WITH THE MOTOR COMPANY BUT NO ONE SUSPECTED THAT HARI SHANKAR WAS REALLY AZAD.

MEANWHILE, THE MOVEMENT HAD GATHERED MOMENTUM IN NORTH INDIA. SO AZAD WENT OVER TO KANPUR.

AZAD, MEET BHAGAT SINGH — FROM THE PUNJAB.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, COMRADE. MAY MANY MORE OF US GET TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY.

IN SEPTEMBER 1928, THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION HELD A MEETING IN DELHI.

THE PARTY'S ACTIVITIES ARE ON THE INCREASE. A DIVISION OF FUNC-TIONS IS NOW ESSENTIAL.

WE SHOULD HAVE CENTRES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

I SUGGEST THAT WE ADD SOCIALIST TO THE NAME OF OUR PARTY.

THUS TWO DIVISIONS WERE FORMED IN THE HINDUSTAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION — THE ARMY DIVISION UNDER AZAD AND THE ORGANISATION DIVISION UNDER BHAGAT SINGH*. LATER, AZAD AND BHAGAT SINGH MET AGAIN.

WE WILL ESTABLISH A SOCIETY WHICH IS FREE OF EXPLOITATION.

WE WANT FREEDOM FOR OUR COUNTRY. WE WILL NOT BEG FOR IT BUT WILL OBTAIN IT AS OUR RIGHT!

*BHAGAT SINGH HAD STOPPED SPORTING A BEARD BY THEN TO AVOID EASY DETECTION BY THE POLICE.

BY THEN, THERE WAS OPEN REBELLION AGAINST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. A COMMISSION WAS SENT FROM ENGLAND TO INQUIRE INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF THE PEOPLE. BUT INSTEAD OF COMING TO THE AID OF THE PEOPLE, THE "SIMON COMMISSION" AS IT WAS CALLED, TRIED TO CREATE MISTRUST AMONG THE HINDUS AND THE MUSLIMS. IT MET WITH HEAVY OPPOSITION AT LAHORE.

SIMON COMMISSION IS A HOAX!

SIMON COMMISSION, GO BACK!

WE WANT INDEPENDENCE! STOP EXPLOITING THE PEOPLE.

THE POLICE RESORTED TO A LATHI CHARGE. LALA LAJPAT RAI, A POPULAR CONGRESS LEADER, WAS FATALLY INJURED.

SEVERAL PLANS WERE MADE TO THROW BOMBS AT THE "SIMON COMMISSION" BUT NONE OF THEM WERE CARRIED OUT.

AZAD, I CANNOT BEAR IT ANY LONGER. WE MUST TAKE REVENGE.

I TOO FEEL THE SAME WAY, BHAGAT SINGH. LALAJI'S DEATH MUST BE AVENGED.

A FEW PARTY MEMBERS MET AT LAHORE AND MADE PLANS TO KILL SCOTT, THE BRITISH POLICE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF LAJPAT RAI. AZAD, BHAGAT SINGH, RAJGURU AND JAIGOPAL WERE TO DO THE DEED.

JAIGOPAL, YOU WILL POST YOURSELF OPPOSITE THE POLICE STATION NEAR D.A.V. COLLEGE. AS SOON AS SCOTT COMES OUT, YOU WILL SIGNAL TO BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU.

AS SOON AS YOU SIGNAL TO US, WE WILL SHOOT HIM DOWN. AZAD WILL HAVE CYCLES READY FOR US TO MAKE A GETAWAY.

I WILL BE ON GUARD WITH MY MAUSER PISTOL.

ON THE APPOINTED DAY —

POLICE STATION

D.A.V. COLL

AS JAIGOPAL GAVE THE SIGNAL —

GET THEM! GET THEM!

BANG

BANG

A POLICE CONSTABLE TRIED TO NAB BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU BUT AZAD APPEARED ON THE SCENE AND —

BANG

LATER, AZAD AND HIS FRIENDS MADE THEIR ESCAPE ON THE BICYCLES.

JAIGOPAL, WHO HAD MADE HIS ESCAPE BY ANOTHER ROUTE, JOINED THEM AT THEIR HIDEOUT.

WE HAVE KILLED SAUNDERS, NOT SCOTT.

NEVER MIND. SAUNDERS TOO WAS AMONG THOSE WHO CAUSED LALAJI'S DEATH.

BY THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE WHOLE OF INDIA HAD HEARD OF THE INCIDENT. POSTERS APPEARED ALL OVER LAHORE.

BLOOD FOR BLOOD

HINDUSTAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION

FOES OF THE COUNTRY DEPART! BHARAT MATA KI JAI!

SAUNDERS IS DEAD! LALAJI'S MURDER HAS BEEN AVENGED!

THESE REVOLUTIONARIES WILL NOT TAKE ANYTHING LYING DOWN. NEITHER DO THEY MAKE EMPTY THREATS.

THE CHIEF OF POLICE GAVE ORDERS.

CLOSE ALL ROADS LEADING OUT OF THE TOWN.

YES, SIR!

AZAD AND BHAGAT SINGH DISCUSSED WHAT THEY SHOULD DO NEXT.

WE MUST ESCAPE FROM LAHORE.

I HAVE IT ALL PLANNED. YOU AND RAJGURU GO TO CALCUTTA...

BHAGAT SINGH, DRESSED IN BRITISH CLOTHES, ACCOMPANIED BY THE WIFE OF A REVOLUTIONARY WITH HER CHILD IN HER ARMS AND RAJGURU, DRESSED AS THEIR SERVANT, SET OUT FOR CALCUTTA.

BHABHI LOOKS A PERFECT MEM-SAHIB! WHAT SORT OF A SAHIB DO I LOOK?

FIT FOR A SERVANT LIKE ME!

MEANWHILE, AT LAHORE STATION, AZAD IN THE GUISE OF A SADHU, STOOD AT THE TICKET WINDOW, SINGING DEVOTIONAL SONGS.

MY ONLY REFUGE IS GIRIDHAR GOPAL*... NONE ELSE.... BHAIJI, A TICKET FOR MATHURA...

IN THE TRAIN—

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MAHARAJ?

I AM A SERVANT OF GOPAL. I HAVE ONLY ONE DESTINATION — BRINDAVAN.

* KRISHNA.

WHEN BHAGAT SINGH REACHED CALCUTTA, HE MET HIS OLD ACQUAINTANCE — JATIN DAS, THE FAMOUS REVOLUTIONARY.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

AZAD WANTS YOU TO COME AND HELP IN SETTING UP A BOMB FACTORY IN AGRA.

I WILL COME WITH YOU. BUT ARE ALL THE MATERIALS WE NEED AVAILABLE THERE?

YES.

LATER, AZAD TRACED BHAGAT SINGH TO AGRA WHERE WORK HAD ALREADY BEGUN.

BHAGAT SINGH! I'M GOING TO JHANSI TODAY. YOU TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE.

THESE FREQUENT TRIPS TO JHANSI— ARE YOU PLANNING TO GET MARRIED?

I AM ALREADY MARRIED — TO MY MAUSER.

IN MARCH 1929, WHEN THE FIRST LOT OF BOMBS WAS READY, SUKHDEV, ONE OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES, CAME TO SEE AZAD AND BHAGAT SINGH.

AZAD, WE MUST TAKE SOME ACTION AGAINST THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES AND PUBLIC SECURITY ACTS.

WE CERTAINLY SHALL, WITH A BANG! WHY NOT THROW A BOMB IN THE ASSEMBLY? ONLY SUCH AN ACT WILL JOLT THE GOVERNMENT.

A GOOD IDEA.

I WILL HANDLE THIS JOB.

I WILL GO WITH YOU.

NO, DUTT, I WILL GO ALONE. I INTEND TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE.

THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. I WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU TO ESCAPE.

BHAGAT SINGH, HOWEVER HAD OTHER IDEAS.

I MUST BE ARRESTED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH. IT WILL INSPIRE OTHERS TO DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO THE CAUSE.

APRIL 8, 1929 WAS THE CHOSEN DATE. IN SPITE OF BHAGAT SINGH'S ATTEMPTS TO DISSUADE HIM, DUTT INSISTED ON GOING WITH HIM.

BOTH OF THEM WERE ARRESTED.

BHARAT MATA KI JAI!

MAY CAPITALIST IMPERIALISM BE DESTROYED.

WITHOUT BHAGAT SINGH, I AM LIKE A MAN WHO HAS LOST HIS RIGHT ARM.

I SUGGEST THAT OUR NEXT JOB SHOULD BE TO PLANT A BOMB UNDER LORD IRWIN'S TRAIN.

PLANS WERE MADE BUT BECAUSE OF SOME CHANGE IN TIMINGS THEY FELL THROUGH. A BOMB WAS DETONATED BUT THE VICEROY ESCAPED UNHARMED.

AZAD DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS WHICH EXPLAINED THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE BOMB.

WHY BOMBS? REVOLUTION ALONE WILL WIPE OUT CAPITALISM AND CLASS DIFFERENCES. IT WILL HELP ESTABLISH A NEW NATION AND A FREE PEOPLE.

EVERY ATTEMPT TO SAVE BHAGAT SINGH HAS FAILED. I WILL REST MY EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION FOR A WHILE. THE PARTY BADLY NEEDS MY ATTENTION. I MUST GO TO KANPUR.

AT KANPUR —

I HAVE JUST HEARD THE NEWS THAT SEVERAL OF OUR DELHI COMRADES HAVE TURNED TRAITORS.

I KNOW. OUR NUMBERS HAVE GROWN BUT OUR IDEALS HAVE FALLEN. THE TRAITORS WILL BE DEALT WITH.

I HAVE HAD MY OWN SUSPICIONS ABOUT CERTAIN COMRADES LIKE ...

...WHERE WILL I FIND ANOTHER BHAGAT SINGH TODAY?

A FEW WEEKS LATER, AZAD HELD A MEETING AT DELHI.

WE ARE NO DOUBT SAD THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FREE BHAGAT SINGH. BUT WE WILL NOT LEAVE OUR WORK UNFINISHED. WE MUST CARRY ON.

BOMBS WERE MANUFACTURED AT DELHI AND KANPUR. AT NIGHT FALL EACH DAY—

ALL RIGHT. WE CAN STOP MAKING SOAP! LET US BEGIN WITH PICRIC ACID AND GUN COTTON.

HIMALAYA TOILETRIES

BRING OUT THE EXPLOSIVES. BEGIN WORKING ON THE BOMBS.

FUNDS WERE NEEDED TO RUN THESE CENTRES. DACOITY WAS ONCE AGAIN THE ONLY SOLUTION.

GADODIA STORES
CHANDNI CHOWK

THE SHOP IS CLOSED. IT IS TEN O'CLOCK.

WE KNOW THAT. GET OUT OF OUR WAY.

WE HAVE CUT THE TELEPHONE LINES.

THEY ENTERED THE SHOP. THE CLERK WAS COUNTING THE DAY'S TAKINGS.

HAND OVER ALL THE CASH.

HERE IS THE CASH AND ALL THE ORNAMENTS TOO.

KEEP THE ORNAMENTS. WE NEED ONLY THE CASH.

FROM ALLAHABAD, GOVERNMENT ARMS WERE SMUGGLED TO THE HEADQUARTERS WHICH WAS SHIFTED FROM DELHI TO KANPUR.

THE GOODS HAVE ARRIVED.

PUT THEM AWAY.

THE DAY THE BRITISH ARE KILLED BY THEIR OWN WEAPONS WILL BE THE HAPPIEST ONE FOR ME.

ONE MORNING, A FEW DAYS LATER —

HAVE YOU SEEN TODAY'S PAPERS? BHAGAT SINGH HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH.

BHAGAT SINGH'S SACRIFICE WILL BE AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US. WE TOO WILL DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO THE COUNTRY.

LATER, AT A MEETING —

AN ACHIEVEMENT! WE HAVE MADE OVER A HUNDRED BOMBS AT OUR KANPUR FACTORY. THEY ARE IN NO WAY INFERIOR TO STANDARD BOMBS.

WE WILL USE THEM AND DRIVE OUT THE FOREIGNERS, BUT ...

...WE CANNOT RELY ON ALL OUR COLLEAGUES. OUR IDEALS HAVE CEASED TO MEAN ANYTHING TO SOME OF THEM.

I THINK IT IS ADVISABLE TO REPEAL THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION FOR A WHILE.

I TOO HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT. IN ORDER THAT THE AFFAIRS OF THE PARTY RUN SMOOTHLY, I PROPOSE TO SUSPEND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

JUST THEN, AN ASSOCIATE OF AZAD WAS TALKING TO THE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT.

I WILL DELIVER AZAD TO YOU. I KNOW THE PLACES HE VISITS.

YOU WILL BE REWARDED, HANDSOMELY.

*BHAGAT SINGH WAS HANGED ON MARCH 23, 1931

HEADQUARTERS WERE NOW SHIFTED TO ALLAHABAD. ON FEBRUARY 27, 1931 AS AZAD AND SUKHDEVRAJ WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE ALFRED PARK FROM MUIR COLLEGE—

THE RANKS OF TRUSTWORTHY MEMBERS HAVE DWINDLED. AND IT IS NOT WISE TO TRUST NEWCOMERS.

YOU ARE RIGHT. THE NEED FOR CAUTION HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.

SUDDENLY—

LOOK! THERE GOES OUR 'COMRADE'. I ONLY HOPE THAT HE DIDN'T SEE

BUT THE 'COMRADE' HAD SEEN AZAD. HE CAME RUNNING TO THE POLICE STATION.

AZAD IS IN ALFRED PARK. START IMMEDIATELY.

AS THE BUGLE WAS SOUNDED, THE POLICEMEN TROOPED INTO THEIR VANS.

EIGHTY MEN IN FOUR VANS SPED TO ALFRED PARK.

AZAD WAS CAUGHT UNAWARES. BEFORE HE COULD TAKE OUT HIS MAUSER, HE WAS SHOT IN THE THIGH.

PANDITJI!

THE NEXT MOMENT—

BANG

AZAD WAS SURROUNDED BY FORTY ARMED POLICEMEN WHO WERE SHOWERING BULLETS AT HIM.

BANG BANG BANG

*HONORIFIC USED WHILE ADDRESSING BRAHMANS

PANDITJI, I HAVE RUN OUT OF BULLETS.

GET AWAY FROM HERE, RAJ. I WILL HOLD THEM.

BANG BANG BANG

AS SUKHDEVRAJ RAN, AZAD WAS SHOT IN THE RIGHT ARM.

THE NEXT MOMENT HE HAD HIS MAUSER IN HIS LEFT HAND; AND THE BATTLE CONTINUED.

BANG

FOR THIRTY-TWO MINUTES AZAD HELD THEM AT BAY. THEN—

I HAVE ONLY ONE BULLET LEFT. NO! I WON'T BE TAKEN ALIVE!

HE RAISED HIS MAUSER TO HIS TEMPLE AND PRESSED THE TRIGGER.

AS AZAD FELL DEAD, THE POLICE CLOSED IN ON HIM. THE POLICE OFFICER ORDERED HIS MEN TO SHOOT AGAIN TO MAKE SURE THAT HE WAS DEAD. SO AFRAID WERE THE BRITISH EVEN OF AZAD'S CORPSE.

AZAD WAS ONLY TWENTY-FIVE WHEN HE BECAME A MARTYR IN THE CAUSE OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE.